

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of communicating information, comprising the step of delivering facsimile information from a facsimile generating device to a user supplied e-mail address in computer readable image data format which is capable of being viewed on a computer screen, wherein the step of delivering comprises the steps of:

entering the user e-mail address through a computing device;

delivering the facsimile information using facsimile protocol along a first communication network to a fax/to/e-mail gateway;

converting at the gateway the facsimile information into a computer readable image data file capable of being displayed on a computer screen;

creating at the gateway an e-mail message including an addressed e-mail header to which is attached the computer readable image data file; and

delivering the e-mail message from the gateway through a global computer network to an electronic mailbox associated with the e-mail address.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

Sending the user e-mail address to a fax interface.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sending step is accomplished through infrared signals.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the sending step is accomplished through radio signals.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

Sending variable size user data to a fax interface.

6. A communication system for communicating information found originally as an image on paper, said system comprising:

a first communication network;

a facsimile device for generating facsimile information in a first format from information found originally as an image on paper, said facsimile device communicating with said first communication network along a first communication line;

a computing device having means for transmitting and receiving information;
an interface sharing said first communication line with said facsimile device
and in communication with said computing device,
said interface including means for receiving and communicating an
alphanumeric address associated with an electronic mail
address,
said interface including means for sending information to said
computing device;
said interface including means for generating commands on the first
communication line;
a computer network; and
a gateway server positioned between said first communication network and
said computer network,
said gateway server being in communication with said first
communication network and being in communication with said
computer network and providing a communication link
therebetween;
said gateway server selectively operating in a fax-to-data mode in
which said gateway server receives facsimile information via
said first communication network and communicates data
representative of said facsimile information to a destination via
said computer network;
said gateway server being responsive to commands received from said
interface to initiate operation of said fax-to-data mode.

7. The communication system of claim 6, wherein said computing device further comprising:

8. The communication system of claim 6, wherein said computing device further comprising:

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9. The communication system of claim 6, wherein
said means for receiving and communicating an alphanumeric address
associated with an electronic mail address of said fax interface comprises an infrared
signal receiver, and
said means for sending information of said fax interface comprises an infrared
signal transmitter.
10. The communication system of claim 6, wherein
said means for receiving and communicating an alphanumeric address
associated with an electronic mail address of said fax interface comprises a radio
signal receiver, and
said means for sending information of said fax interface comprises a radio
signal transmitter.

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